

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01 SAJ-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01

NIC-01 OMB-01 DRC-01 /098 W
----- 012270

R 221509Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8105

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 5933

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, UR, US

SUBJ: NEIZVESTNIY'S MONUMENT TO KHRUSHCHEV

APPROVED

REF: MOSCOW A109 OF MARCH 21, 1974

1. SCULPTOR ERNST NEIZVESTNIY TOLD EMBOFF APRIL -1 THAT HE HAS RECEIVED OFFICIAL APPROVAL FOR HIS MONUMENT TO NIKITA KHRUSHCHEV TO BE ERECTED AT KHROSHCHEV GRAVESITE HE CONFIRMED NEWS REPORTS THAT THE PROJECT HAD BEEN APPROVED AT "THE HIGH DUT LEVEL," SAYING HE HAD BEEN INFORMED OF THE APPROVAL BY A MEMBER OF THE "DREZHNEV FAMILY," (HE APPARENTLY MEANT SOMEONE CLOSE TO BREZHNEV) WHO INDICATED THAT IT WAS EXPECTED NEIZVESTNIY WOULD NOW MAKE NO MORE "NOISE" TO THE WESTERN PRESS. NEIZVESTNIY WAS ELATED ABOUT THE GOOD NEWS AND DIRECTLY CONNECTED THE APPROVAL, WHICH HAS BEEN PENDING OR OVER TWO YEARS, WITH HIS RECENT COMPLAINT TO WESTERN REPORTERS ABOUT SOVIET TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS (REFAIR).

2. NEIZVESTNIY ALSO INDICATED THAT HE FEELS HE HAS
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SOME LEVERAGE WITH THE AUTHORITIES AND THAT HE PLANS TO

PRESS THEM ON THE ISSUE OF TRAVEL. IF HE IS NOT ALLOWED TO TRAVEL TO THE WEST, NEIZVESTNIY HAS ANOTHER "STATEMENT" PREPARED FOR RELEASE.

3. COMMENT: NEIZVESTNIY'S SUCCESS MAY OFFER SOME COMFORT TO OTHER INTELLECTUALS OF HIS TYPE (I.E. NON-CONFORMIST BUT NOT NECESSARILY DISSIDENT) WHO MAY BE WILLING TO TAKE SOME RISKS IN ORDER TO PLAY ON THE REGIME'S PRESUMED DISTASTE FOR FURTHER PUBLICITY ABOUT REPRESSION IN THE CULTURAL SPHERE. THERE HAVE BEEN OTHER EXAMPLES OF APPARENTLY CHANGING PERCEPTIONS ON THE PART OF SOME INTELLECTUALS WITH REGARD TO CONTACT WITH WESTERNERS, MWENLY REPORTERS, BUT EVEN INCLUDING THE U.S. EMBASSY. YEVTUSHENKO'S RECENT APPEARANCE AT AN EMBASSY OFFICIAL FUNCTION AT A TIME WHEN HE WAS HAVING HIS OWN TROUBLES IS A GOOD EXAMPLE, AND WE HAVE HEARD COMMENTS FROM OTHER MOSCOW CONTACTS INDICATING A FEELING THAT SOME UNOFFICIAL RELATIONSHIPS WITH AMERICANS MAY OFFER A MEASURE OF PROTECTION TO THEM.
STOESSEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONAL OPINION, PRESS RELEASES, POLITICAL FREEDOM
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974MOSCOW05933
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740093-1050
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740425/aaaaavsn.tel
Line Count: 81
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: MOSCOW A109 OF MARCH 21, 1974
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 JUN 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <26 MAR 2003 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NEIZVESTNIY'S MONUMENT TO KHRUSHCHEV APPROVED
TAGS: PINT, UR, US, (NEIZVESTNIY, ERNST)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005